CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A device for collecting and detecting airborne microorganisms, comprising:

a disposable culturing container containing liquid media capable of growing the microorganisms; ~~and~~

disposable tubing leading into and out of the culturing container,

an air pump for transferring an air sample with the microorganisms through said liquid media, thereby intimately mixing and contacting the microorganisms with said liquid media, for subsequent incubation of the microorganisms in order to promote their growth, and

a submicron filter between the culturing container and air pump to prevent liquid and solid particulate matter from passing beyond the filter and contaminating the air pump, said filter located remote from the culturing container.

2. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said air pump is a vacuum pump pulling said air sample through said liquid media and through a linking tube leading to said filter.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said air pump is a pressure pump pushing said air sample through said liquid media.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said culturing container further includes a detector substance capable of detecting microbial growth during said incubation of the microorganisms.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said detector substance is a pH indicator.

6. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said detector substance is a redox indicator.

7. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said detector substance is an enzymatic indicator.

8. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said liquid media is selectively promoting growth of a specific class of microorganisms and inhibiting growth of other microorganisms.

9. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said liquid media further comprises at least one antimicrobial agent capable of inhibiting the growth of background microorganisms while allowing growth of target microorganisms which are resistive to said anti microbial agent.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9 wherein said target microorganisms are species of anthrax.